

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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June 3, 1997

LB 23, 229, 229A, 587, 622

Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. LB (sic)1766 is one piece of LB 587 that deals with the chief medical officer for the Department of Health and Human Services. When we passed the bill last year, there was a health director that was appointed if the Director of Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure was not a physician. We have found since that time that the public health aspect and the medical aspect of the reorganization has not been adequately represented. So this amendment establishes a chief medical officer for the Department of Health and Human Services appointed by the Governor, and not by the Director of Regulation and Licensure. They become a member of the Policy Cabinet. They have oversight for health issues within the system, and they make decisions in an administrative context for health professionals. This is largely the duties that were in place for the health director, but this also elevates the chief medical officer on to the Policy Cabinet and make sure that the medical community and the public health community have a voice in the policymaking. That's what the amendment does. I'd ask for the adoption of the amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wesely, there are no lights on. Do you care to close? Closing is waived. The question is the adoption of AM1766. All in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of Senator Wesely's amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Mr. Clerk, I'd like to announce that while the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I would propose to sign and do sign LB 23, (LB) 229, and (LB) 229A. Mr. Clerk, next motion.

CLERK: Senator Wesely, AM2130. (See page 2612 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wesely.